

Medical Economics and Public Health

These Gems are quoted from widely published extracts of an address by a professor of a much heralded school of public health.

This professor, who is teaching doctors to be "public health officers," tells the world that the chief medical service of the future "will center about the county hospital" with a "full-time salaried staff" for the hospital "and clinics."

This state medicine—or more correctly, county medicine—center will serve "all the seriously sick of the county"; "maternity cases" and all those suffering from "obscure and chronic complaints."

"Private practitioners," according to this paragon, will be "mainly concerned with the health supervision of their patients." Even these "private practitioners" will be paid upon an "annual fee basis" and all the health work of a county will be regulated by a "medical director" responsible to a "board of trustees."

This speaker and the school he represents are not alone by any means in the apparent renewal of efforts to sovietize health in the United States.

The Pacific Coast Conference of Health Officials and the annual convention of the Health Officers of California meets at Long Beach, California, September 28 to October 3. Dr. F. W. Browning, Hayward, California, is secretary-treasurer of both organizations.

The United States Public Health Service Wants More Doctors—Applicants must be not less than 23 nor more than 32 years of age, and they must have been graduated in medicine at some reputable medical college, and have had one year's hospital experience or two years' professional practice. They must pass satisfactorily, oral, written and clinical tests before a board of medical officers, and undergo a physical examination.

Examinations will be held in San Francisco, September 14. Further information may be obtained from the Surgeon-General, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

New Health Officers Receive Appointment—According to the California State Board of Health Bulletin, the following appointments and changes have been made recently:

Dr. E. B. Philbrook has been appointed health officer of the city of Santa Cruz to succeed Dr. W. H. Congdon. Doctor Philbrook is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California, but is not a member of the California Medical Association.

Dr. Charna G. Perry, a member of the California Medical Association, succeeds Dr. Allen H. Vance as city health officer of Sausalito.

Dr. R. C. Main, health officer of Monterey County, has taken over the public health administration of the cities of Pacific Grove and Monterey, both of which municipalities are now included in the county health unit.

Mr. M. B. Ordway was formerly health officer of Pacific Grove, and Mr. H. R. Alexander of Monterey. Communications should be addressed to Dr. Main at Salinas or Mr. Clyde L. Dorsey, deputy health officer, Monterey. Doctor Main is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California. He is not a member of the California Medical Association.

Dr. Smith McMullin of Yuba City has been appointed health officer of Sutter County, succeeding Dr. W. L. Stephens of Meridian. Doctor McMullin is a member of the California Medical Association and is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California.

Dr. F. W. Townsend of Loyaltown has been appointed health officer of Sierra County, filling an office which has been vacant for several months, following the departure of Dr. A. O. Eckhardt. Dr. Eckhardt is a member of the California Medical Association, but Doctor Townsend is not a member.

Mr. Edgar A. Miller has been appointed health officer of the newly incorporated city of Tujunga in Los Angeles County. Mr. Miller is not licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California.

Mr. F. A. Beggs has been appointed health officer of Signal Hill, succeeding Dr. Arthur E. Pike. Mr. Beggs is not licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California, and is not a member of the California Medical Association.

Dr. H. S. Gordon has been appointed health officer of Perris, succeeding Dr. D. W. Sheldon. Doctor Gordon is not now a member of the California Medical Association, but is licensed to practice medicine and surgery in California.

Encouraging Types of Advertising—Physicians of Southern California will shortly receive a brief circular from M. J. Benjamin regarding his "Natural Support for Hernia." Mr. Benjamin is an advertiser in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, and the encouraging feature of his other advertising matter is, that he voluntarily submits his "copy" to the California Medical Association for acceptance *before* he issues it.

In a letter Mr. Benjamin says: "I am prompted to submit this to you because of my being an advertiser in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE and *because of my desire to conduct my business along ethical lines*. If there is anything objectionable regarding this form of advertising or the copy used, I will be glad to change it sufficiently to make it acceptable."

Several of our advertisers have adopted similar practices, to the interest and advantage of the public health, and, we firmly believe, to the financial advantage of the honest vendor of honest goods.

A working monograph on the treatment of syphilis, prepared by the Dermatological Research Laboratories, will be sent with the compliments of the publishers to any physician requesting a copy.

The introduction discusses arsphenamine vs. neoarsphenamine, sulpharsphenamine, bismuth, and mixed treatment.

Chapters are devoted to methods of treatment: Intraspinal injections; technic of preparing; arsphenamine; neoarsphenamine; sulpharsphenamine, and bismuth; possible reactions and sodium thiosulphate.

Requests for this monograph should be addressed either to The Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, or the Dermatological Research Laboratories, Philadelphia.

For the Convenience of Physicians located in the Eastbay region, the Travers Surgical Company has opened a store at 435 Nineteenth street, Oakland, telephone Oakland 343. The increased patronage of the members of the C. M. A. across the bay has made this possible. The same complete stock of supplies is carried in the Oakland store as has always been found in the San Francisco store, and the same service is rendered. The advertisement of this popular surgical supply house is always found in each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, opposite the last page of reading matter, as their contract calls for this "preferred" space.

Imitation may be the Sincerest Form of Flattery, but when it enters the health field, whether as a medical organization, publication or what not, it may prove dangerous to the unwary.

We now have several imitators of Better Health magazine. Some have contented themselves with appropriating the copyrighted title, while others carry the imitation to fake better health services.

There are all sorts of fake "national" medical and research organizations that make their names and general procedures sound as much like the genuine as they can or dare. This obviously for the purpose of fooling the public.

The "National Health Service," an organization with something to sell, approximates our "U. S. Public Health Service" so closely in name that Surgeon-General Cumming has "released" a statement denying that the Gov-

ernment has any connection with the "National Service."

"Orders From Washington have stopped the confiscated liquors to doctors, druggists, and hospitals. An energetic doctors' supply house broadcasts information, and at the bottom of their letter is a telephone call for prompt service.

But oh, what a difference in the price!

The Anglo-French Drug Company take their place in this number along with our other accredited advertising firms who invite the confidence and of our members. Their new offices are in the building.

Alum Rock Sanatorium—Dr. Charles P. Durney, has been active in tuberculosis work in the Hawaiian Islands for the last fourteen years, and who is head of the Government Sanatorium at Kula, Maui, T. H., has accepted the position of resident medical director of the Alum Rock Sanatorium, and will be associated with the staff in developing its growth as an institution for the care of patients suffering from lung diseases and tuberculosis in all its forms.

The Sanatorium has recently added a new wing of eight private rooms, and has completely rebuilt the culinary department.

"Should Pay for Treatment."—"The more I see of the way people spend their money," says "A Red Cross Public Health Nurse" in the Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing, June, 1925, "the more I am inclined to question, as do the doctors, the wisdom of some of our work."

Electrocoagulation and Radiation Therapy in Malignant Disease of the Ear, Nose, and Throat—Electrocoagulation in the treatment of malignant disease of the ear, nose, or throat, according to George E. Pfahler, Philadelphia (Journal A. M. A.), will have only a very limited field of application. Electrocoagulation consists in the destruction of the disease by coagulation of the tissues. The heat is caused by the resistance in the tissues to the flow of the high frequency electricity. It differs from the destruction by cautery; it is not a transmitted heat, but is heat generated in the tissues and extends to a greater depth than that of the cautery. It destroys all kinds of tissue in its path, and, therefore, cannot be used where blood vessels, nerves, bone or other essential tissues must be preserved. It is a painful procedure and must be used with either local or general anesthesia. If the area to be destroyed is supplied by large blood vessels, these arteries must be ligated in advance for fear of a secondary hemorrhage when the slough separates. There is always a sloughing process which will continue for several weeks or months, until all the dead tissue has been thrown off. If bone has been destroyed, it will suppurate, and generally separate as a sequestrum. Electrocoagulation can be used wherever the cautery can be applied and often also in very small areas where only a single wire can be introduced. It must be used under the guidance of the eye, and much skill is required in order that the tissue may be destroyed to the proper depth. Tissue can be destroyed by plunging the needle to any depth, but this demands skill, experience, and an accurate knowledge of anatomy. Radiation, on the other hand, has been used extensively with good results. Radiation can be used to advantage preceding operation, following operation or independent of operation, and should always be used in conjunction with electrocoagulation.

The Use of Antimony and Potassium Tartrate in Trichinosis—In a case cited by J. S. Grove, Chicago (Journal A. M. A.), very small doses of antimony and potassium tartrate proved effective; 1 cc. of a freshly prepared 2 per cent sterile solution was given intravenously. The next day 2 cc. of the 2 per cent solution was given intravenously. Following this the patient began to feel much better, and her temperature dropped to normal levels. On the third day, 3 cc. of the 2 per cent solution was given; on this day the patient developed slight muscular tenderness over the biceps brachii. On the fifth day, 4 cc. was given. Three days later the patient was well.

C. M. A. REVISING EXTENSION LECTURE PROGRAM

A revision of the Extension Lecture program of the California Medical Association is in progress. Every lecturer on the present list of speakers has been invited to revise the titles of his lectures at this time and submit the revised program to this office for publication.

Any member not on the present list who desires to be included in this service should at this time furnish the State Association's office his name and program. When lantern slides are used to illustrate lectures a notation to that effect is helpful. Lecturers are permitted the use of the Association's lanterns in this service, and may secure them from the office, 1016 Balboa building, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 5 p. m. daily, except on Saturday, when the office closes at noon.

It is earnestly hoped that interest in the Extension program will be stimulated by the submission of an enlarged and varied program.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement (reported by Bert S. Thomas, secretary) — Since our last report in August we have had three new applications for membership. These will be presented at the September meeting. They come from E. P. Moser, Camino, Calif.; Charles G. Reynolds, Repressa, Calif.; Hans F. Schlueter, Sacramento, Calif.

The recent death of J. F. Sigwart, which occurred during the doctor's visit in San Francisco, came to us as a shock from a clear sky. He was a comparatively young man, in apparently perfect health. The heart of our Society goes out to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sigwart.

Sacramento and its close neighbor, Mather Field, have been assigned two hospital trains and two medical laboratories by the Allocation Board of the Ninth Corps Area. Once again, let me call your attention to the desirability of having our Society take an active part in comprising the professional personnel of these outfits.

It is pleasing to see G. W. Dufficy again making active rounds at the Sisters' Hospital. He spent a lengthy period in San Francisco in a post-operative convalescence.

Leo W. Farrell has continued as the resident surgeon at the Community Hospital.

Mervyn F. Frandy is now located at Jackson, Amador County. He goes there from Placerville.

With the coming of fall, the Society again starts its monthly meetings. The September meeting will be devoted to a roentgenologic symposium.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

San Bernardino County Hospital Accredited by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the A. M. A.:

Dear Doctor Musgrave—We are pleased to announce

by which it might be done. He also spoke of mortality in California, and brought out the fact that most counties a large amount of money is being expended yearly on health work with little results, due to the lack of proper organization and supervision. Following Dr. Dickie's speech, the point was brought out by members of the Society that at present many "lay" organizations in the county are fostering the plan of a health board, and that these bodies should have the aid and leadership from the county society. In order to carry out this plan, a committee was appointed to co-operate with such organizations. Members of the committee are F. Holmes Smith, San Bruno; W. C. Chidester, San Mateo; and W. H. Murphy, Redwood City. At the present time the Society is carrying on work to organize the various interested organizations of the county, as well as the public at large, with the fact that the county society is behind the movement in question, and ready to give it full support. The co-operation of the district attorney is also being requested in the legal aspects of the movement.

Harper Peddicord, formerly of Fort Bragg, has opened an office in Redwood City. He has transferred his membership from the Mendocino Society to the San Mateo County Society.

M. F. Desmond, Burlingame, and John N. Blood, Redwood City, both of whom have been away from practice because of illness, have recovered sufficiently to carry on their work.

James Raphael, formerly connected with the South San Francisco Hospital, has removed to Berkeley.

✽

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Santa Barbara County Medical Society (reported by Alex C. Soper Jr., M.D., secretary)—No meetings are being held through July and August, a vacation having been unanimously declared. Physicians of the city are busy enough finding new quarters, there being an almost universal desire to be "on the ground" and not in a big office building since the earthquake. The result so far is a considerable association of "groups" in bungalows, either new or reconstructed. These men are, however, careful to state that they are associated together only by "contiguity." So may be noted the association of Robinson, Isaac, Ullman, and Hotchkiss; of Schurmeier and Bagby; of Pierce, Freidell, Wells, Ryan, and Stevens; and of Brush, Luton Means, Soper, Varick, and Allen and Marian Williams.

Damage to the St. Francis Hospital was considerable, and the miraculous escape of everyone in the building is remarkable. At first their patients were cared for at the Cottage Hospital tent colony, but later the old St. Francis building was prepared for their use.

The General (County) Hospital was badly damaged, but here also no one was injured. Patients were moved out onto the lawn, while the main building, nurses' quarters, and superintendent's buildings are being reconstructed.

Practice during the first days of the quake was much disturbed, due to temporary lack of telephones, gas, electricity, and quarters. Various members of the Society did community service—those of the Reserve Corps especially, Lieutenant-Colonel Ullman and Major Means having the particular duty of issuing passes to the myriads of people wishing to enter the damaged zone, and Wilson and Henderson giving many first-aid treatments at the Red Cross headquarters.

The quick action of the gas and electric employes in shutting off supply immediately undoubtedly saved the city from conflagration. The telephone operators, with walls crumbling all around them, stuck to their desks and maintained connections as long as possible, while the long distance wires were the first to be re-connected, giving the outside world a chance to inquire about conditions.

"When the earthquake came," writes Amy Cryan, "the forty nurses of the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital were at breakfast, and at once—without delaying for orders—each one went to the patients she had just been nursing, as promptly and simply and courageously as if it had been part of her routine training. These girls carried out the patients, many of whom were helpless and some of them were heavy men, and not till afterwards

San Diego County Medical Notes (reported by Robert Pollock, M.D.)—The Alpine Sanitarium for the treatment and education of the tubercular, located at Alpine, California, is now under the general superintendency of Bryant R. Simpson, M.D., formerly in charge of the U. S. V. B. Hospital No. 64, Camp Kearney, California. Dr. Simpson employs a full-time specialist in tuberculosis as a house physician.

As a guarantee of the character, equipment, and service afforded, it has been passed upon and has secured the endorsement of the Council of the San Diego County Medical Society, as well as the San Diego County Hospital Commission. The admirable location of this institution in the foothills, with one of the most equable climates in Southern California, will undoubtedly make of it a very desirable place to which we may refer our tubercular patients.

Dr. Will H. Potter and Dr. Marjorie J. Potter have returned from the clinical tour of European capitals, which they much enjoyed.

The fall scientific program of the Medical Society shows a number of interesting meetings, starting with the annual visit to the Imperial County Society, which meeting will be held at the Barbara Worth Hotel at El Centro.

✽

SAN MATEO COUNTY

San Mateo County Medical Society (reported by W. H. Murphy, secretary)—At the July meeting of the San Mateo County Medical Society a fee schedule was presented by a special committee and adopted by the Society. Fees for general practice, including office and home work, obstetrics, surgery, gynecology, orthopedics, laboratory work, and genito-urinary treatment were set. The Society also adopted a placard to be posted in each physicians office, stating the fees for the more common forms of medical service. The plan in general was modeled after that used by the Tulare County Society, data upon which was furnished by Dr. John N. Blood of Redwood City, who formerly practiced at Exeter. No attempt was made to regulate the fees for eye, ear, nose, and throat work, it being the feeling of the Society that these should be set by the men who specialize in these lines.

The matter of establishing a credit bureau in connection with the Society was also presented, but it was decided to leave this matter in the hands of the individual practitioners. A credit bureau operating in the county offered to handle the work for the Society at a flat yearly rate per member, providing all members would adopt the plan. As unanimous consent to this could not be obtained, it was decided to let the credit bureau work with the members individually.

Walter M. Dickie of the State Board of Health addressed the Society at a special meeting on the evening of August 13 on the topic of full-time county health boards. At the July meeting a motion favoring the co-operation of the Society in such a movement was unanimously passed, and it was decided to request Dr. Dickie to talk to the Society so as to familiarize the organization with the details of the plan. Dickie discussed the advantages of forming a full-time county board and the

did they realize how strained their backs and arms felt. They did not realize that they had acted heroically; they did not even know how all-important their courageous work was to prove, since it left them ready to deal with the patients who were rushed down from the St. Francis Hospital, which was wrecked."

"Bright as are the pages of the history of medicine, the record of the Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital has brightened these pages still further with its gallant record of devotion to duty. Characteristically, it is left to an outsider to record that historic week."

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

New Members—Alameda County—Donald D. Lum, Alameda; Thomas O. Lake, Berkeley; Gordon W. Roberts, Oakland.

Kern County—Thomas L. Matlock, Wasco.

Los Angeles County—H. N. Krohn, Charles F. Sebastian, Joseph M. Klein, Bernard Aronchik, Oscar S. Essensen, Frederick D. Facey, Howard L. Hatfield, C. H. Hayton, J. C. Ross, Cora Smith King, John F. Van Paing, Allan M. Wilkinson, M. H. Newman, Harry J. Mayer, Los Angeles; Ralph Kirsch, Lamada Park; Erle B. Woodward, Monrovia.

San Diego County—John J. Shea, Anita M. Muhl, William C. Newton, Philip M. Harker, San Diego.

San Mateo County—Fred C. Smith, Palo Alto.

Deaths—Sanborn, Christopher Allen. Died at Redlands, July 18, 1925, age 70. Graduate of Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, 1882. Licensed in California in 1888. Doctor Sanborn was a member of the San Bernardino County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Sigwart, Joseph Frederick. Died at San Francisco, August 2, 1925, age 39. Graduate of the St. Louis University School of Medicine, 1912, and licensed in California the same year. Doctor Sigwart was a member of the Sacramento County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Allergic and Toxic Properties of Lens Protein—Of eighty-six patients tested by Sanford R. Gifford, Omaha (Journal A. M. A.), with lens protein, 12.6 per cent gave positive dermal reactions. Of those giving positive skin tests, six showed unusual post-operative ocular reactions, which may well be interpreted as due to their sensitization to lens protein. In a further case with a very severe reaction there seemed no doubt of this. It was found possible to sensitize animals by injections of lens protein, so that discission produced an increased ocular reaction; but this occurred most often in animals treated so intensively as to be immunized to lens protein. In eight patients with negative skin tests, ocular reactions, apparently due to absorbing lens matter, occurred, indicating some toxic factor, not depending on anaphylaxis, in the lens matter itself. Normal lens matter showed toxicity when injected into the anterior chamber of the eyes of animals, but cataractous lens matter was apparently much more toxic, nine of fourteen animals showing more marked reactions from the cataractous lens, and none more marked from the normal lens. There is evidence that autolysis of the lens proteins occurs, with the production of leukomains and allied products, which may be toxic, and that the chemical differences between cataractous and normal lenses can explain the greater toxicity of cataractous lens matter. While endophthalmitis phaco-anaphylactica, in the sense of Verhoeff and Lemoine, undoubtedly does occur, a large number of reactions to lens substance cannot be explained as anaphylactic, and perhaps a majority of such reactions are due to the toxicity of lens matter itself. Hence, a better name for the whole group of reactions is that of Straub, "endophthalmitis phacogenetica."

Anaphylactic Shock and Failure of Desensitization After Administration of Pneumococcus Type 1 Serum—The case reported by M. A. Blankenhorn, Cleveland (Journal A. M. A.), presented three unusual phenomena: 1. The patient developed fatal septicemia after surviving lobar pneumonia terminating in crisis by the aid of antiserum. 2. He became extremely sensitive in nineteen days after serum treatment, but the sensitization was not discernable by skin test. 3. Desensitization failed.

Utah State Medical Association

SOL G. KAHN, Salt Lake City.....President
WILLIAM L. RICH, M. D., Salt Lake.....Secretary
J. U. GIESY, Kearns Building, Salt Lake City,
Associate Editor for Utah

SOLOMON AND THE NEWER MEDICINE

Solomon was a great king and a wise man—and a blasé one we may imagine because, as the champion wise cracker of his day, he pulled that one about there being nothing new under the sun.

Of course, one may excuse Solomon. One may excuse any man with his reputed number of lady friends and wives. According to the fundamentalists, woman was made from the bone of a man—and she's been a bone of contention ever since. But, the point of it all is that Solomon, reputed the wisest bird of his day, either before or after his run-in with Sheba—we forget which—opened his mouth and spilled something that really justified his reputation for wisdom more fully than even he perhaps imagined at the time.

Speaking of avocados—this brings us to the subject of recent modern medical research and the eternal subject of metabolism, which is, after all, but the study of that wonderful engine, the body, in which cholesterol, activated by the sun bath in the skin capillaries, carries its resultant quality to the cell to explode it into activity, and so make the engine run.

Looking at medicine from the attitude of a man in the bleachers observing a game, it appears now that the study of internal function—in other words, internal medicine—is the line along which medicine in the future must advance.

Surgery, after all (and with all respect to the brilliancy of its performance) is but a makeshift—a tacit confession that we know of nothing better—nothing more that can be done. Yet in a wide range of conditions surgery may presumably be avoided, if the understanding of the causation of the final condition is arrived at, and the defective metabolism leading to it be corrected in time.

Comes now parathyrin, as perhaps the latest metabolic advance. Parathyrin is an extract of the parathyroid glands. It has shown wonderful results in tetany, either of disease or of traumatic injury of the parathyroids. It may be expected to show equally good results in the body metabolism of lime—hence, in the treatment of, say, spasmophilia, putrefactive bowel conditions, the treatment of ulcerative processes of the digestive tract or of the integument—or any condition depending largely upon lime imbalance, just as we already know that the pituitary is so intimately involved in the process of growth, and the thyroid in the maintenance of normal basal metabolism, and the adrenals with blood pressure and a normal or abnormal circulatory tone, as well as a possible defensive function in infectious processes.

And this brings us back to our text and the truth of Solomon's world-weary observation. Because all these extracts are derived from animal